Funds for NHDP-III

3222. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for National Highways Development Project-III for the year 2005-06;

(b) the details of the National Highways of Tamil Nadu which are to be developed during 2005-06 as part of this project and funds allocated therefor;

(c) whether any new roads of Tamil Nadu are proposed to be announced as National Highways;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) An allocation of Rs. 1400 crore has made during the year 2005-2006 for National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase III.

(b) About 1255 km length of various National Highways in the State of Tamil Nadu has been identified for development under NHDP Phase III on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. Steps have been initiated for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) for the stretches identified in the State of Tamil Nadu along with the identified stretches in other States under NHDP Phase III. No separate allocation has been made State-wise out of the allocation of Rs. 1400 crore for these projects during 2005-2006. Award of civil works for the stretches depends on the completion of DPR and response from the BOT entrepreneurs.

(c) to (e) During the 10th Five Year Plan, 362 km length has been added to the National Highway network in Tamil Nadu. At present the total length of National Highway in the country is about 65,569 km. Huge investements are required for upgradation of these highways to NH standards. Government is presently concentrating on the development of the National Highways already declared. As and when the Government is in a position to expand the National Highway network further, requirements of different States including that of Tamil Nadu will be given due consideration subject to availability of funds and *inter-se-priorities.*